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Library on the cutting edge of high technology

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The card catalog in Bryant's Hodgson Memorial Library collects a lot of dust these days. John Hannon wouldn't have it any other way.

The director of library services has been striving for several years to make the library the most technologically advanced in Rhode Island, which means doing away with things like the card catalog. And Hannon has done it.

"No one else is as fully automated in Rhode Island," Hannon says. His is no idle boast.

Hodgson is equipped with no less than five high-tech systems that give students, faculty, and all other users access to practically every book or periodical in the state and more than 12 million titles nationwide. And it's done with an ease that is almost startling.

The library's latest addition is Info Trac II. This system "allows patrons in seconds to search more than 400 magazines and the most recent three

months of the New York Times for articles written on a specific topic," Hannon said.

Developed by Information Access Company, of Belmont, California, the system is updated monthly with a new index of the latest issues.

"The database is recorded by laser on a compact disc, which is similar to those used for audio recordings," Hannon said.

Each disc contains more than 500 million characters, which if stretched end-to-end would make a stream of letters and numbers long enough to reach a third of the way across the U.S. The laser disc is connected to a small computer to gain access to the information. This marriage of the disc to the computer "has revolutionized library research," Hannon said.

"Instead of thumbing through numerous print indexes... Bryant students simply sit at the computer terminal, type in the subject they wish to search, press a button, and almost instantly

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Man behind high-tech library: Jack Hannon

He has the face of an old-time sea captain, but John (Jack) Hannon's mind is definitely high technology.

As director of library services at Bryant, Hannon is the man behind the transformation of the Hodgson Memorial Library into the most technologically advanced in Rhode Island. Indeed, you can say without a doubt that the library *is* Jack Hannon.

Hannon, 50, was hired 19 years ago by Bryant to plan Hodgson from the ground up. He worked very closely with Unistructure architect Robert Hillier to get exactly what he wanted—right down to picking out the furniture and carpeting and paint.

"If you think moving an office full of furniture from the East Side (of Providence) was hard," he said, "just think what it was like moving 20 truckloads of books."

Being Jack Hannon, he left nothing to chance. He even designed his own moving boxes and labeling system. The move was completed with precision-like accuracy.

Hannon's organizational ability is evident even in his primary hobby: assembling and collecting precision models—automobiles and tugboats. Several favorites decorate his office. He also has



Jack Hannon shows his use for the card catalog, which has been replaced by "Brycat" (to his right).

a love affair going with a 1963 Karman Ghia convertible that he tinkers with.

Hannon also teaches English at Bryant, something he did for seven years as a public school teacher. He also was a school librarian in the Chariho district of Rhode Island, and he ran a drive-in restaurant for seven other years.

The Massachusetts native holds English and library science degrees from the University of Rhode Island, and a doctorate in library administration from Simmons College. A Smithfield resident, he has been very active with the Greenville Public Library. To relax, Hannon swims, plays golf, and listens to jazz and dixieland music.



On the cutting edge

Continued from page 1

they'll see a listing of articles on the subject," he said.

Info Trac II also will suggest other related topics for patrons, who can scan the lists and select specific references to be printed. Each description contains the headline of the story, name of the publication in which it appeared, the author's name, the page number on which it begins, and its length.

Hodgson's transformation into a state-of-the-art library "that has greatly increased our ability to respond to patrons' information needs," said Hannon, began in the summer of 1983. That's when the library began converting its collections to machine-readable form. By September, 1984 everything was on line and "Brycat," the automated card catalog, relegated the old card catalog to dust-gathering.

Since that fall, using the card catalog has been as simple as following a few easy instructions on a monitor that reacts to your fingers doing the walking across the screen to find the location of a book or other reference material.

In order since then, the library has tied into the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network and brought on line its OCLC, CLSI LIBS 100, DATALINX, and Compact Disclosure systems.

The Rhode Island network allows Bryant to communicate with all the major academic and the five major public libraries in the state—all those set up as Special Research Centers. (Bryant is the center for business.)

The OCLC system, which uses a modified IBM PC 300, gives Bryant access to the millions of titles at more than 3,000 institutions nationwide.

DATALINX is a network of academic and research libraries that allows Bryant to check on and claim all the journals and serials received through this system.

Compact Disclosure is a complete in-house database of public companies that uses the new technology of optical disc publishing. It gives updated business and financial information on 10,000 companies that are listed on the New York and American stock exchanges, and the Over-the-Counter Market.

CLSI is the main system. A "turnkey system," said Hannon, "it allows for the automation of the following library function: circulation, acquisitions, reserves, materials booking, and the catalog."

Hannon said the library's transformation actually is about 1½ years ahead of schedule. Initially, he had hoped to be at the point he is now by the spring of 1988.

The future?

Hannon would like to see terminals located all over campus that tie into the library. The technology is out there, he said. It's just a matter of money.



Dr. Bernard Bass

Leadership series to continue

Bryant's new Leadership Forum Series continues on March 26 with an academic giant speaking about "Transformational Leadership."

Dr. Bernard Bass, considered one of America's leading academic authorities and writers on leadership, talks at 7:30 p.m. in Room 386 A&B of the Unistructure. He currently is a distinguished professor of management at State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton.

Bass is best known for two books: "Organizational Decision-Making" and "Leadership and Performance Beyond Expectations." But he has written 10 other books and more than 270 articles, book chapters and reviews, and monographs.

The prolific writer holds B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State University. He has taught also at the Universities of Rochester, Pittsburgh, and California (Berkeley), and Louisiana State University.

Bass has been feted by a variety of professional associations and organizations. Among the major organizations for whom he has worked as a consultant are the Exxon, Xerox, and General Electric corporations, the Louisiana Department of Institutions, and the American Management Association.

The professor also has taught, lectured, and conducted seminars and workshops in more than 30 countries around the world. He is a consulting editor for the *Journal of Applied Psychology* and *European Industrial Training*.

The series is sponsored by Bryant's Leadership Program. All forums are free and open to the public.

Federation to fete milestone

The Bryant Faculty Federation celebrates its 20th anniversary next month with three events. The opener, a conference on "The Future of Higher Education," brings three of America's leading observers of higher education to campus.

The celebration of the faculty union's birth and successful negotiation of a professional contract, the first of its kind in higher education nationwide, opens April 4. It will bring Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell, New York *Times* education editor Edward (Ted) Fiske, and Dr. Robert Nielsen, assistant to the president for higher edu-

Realtor named 'Businessperson of Year'

Bryant's Graduate School is naming a prominent Blackstone Valley realtor as its 1987 Businessperson of the Year.

Roger L. Plante '61, M.B.A. '72 receives the award at the annual dinner dance, scheduled this year for March 28 at the Pawtucket Country Club. He is the owner and manager of R.L. Plante Realty, Inc., of Woonsocket.

Plante opened his real estate firm in 1979 after serving for 16 years in the mortgage operations of two banks: Atlantic National Bank Group in Florida and the Woonsocket Institution for Savings (now Eastland Bank). He was a vice-president and senior mortgage officer for Atlantic and a vice-president for the Woonsocket bank when he left to go to Florida.

Plante has seen his realty firm grow from two to 14 sales associates. The broker also is a certified real estate appraiser, a past president of the Multiple Listing Service, a director of the Greater Woonsocket Board of Realtors, a past director of



Roger L. Plante '61, M.B.A. '72

the Rhode Island Association of Realtors, and a member of the National Association of Realtors.

His community activities include serving as a member of the Woonsocket Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club, a corporator of Fogarty Memorial Hospital in North Smithfield, educational director of the American Cancer Society of Northern Rhode Island, and a director for the Narragansett Council Boy Scouts of America.

Plante and his wife, Jeannine, live in North Smithfield. They have three sons.

Fund 'friends' feted

At a late-February reception, Bryant said "thanks" to the many volunteers and special friends who helped make the 1985-86 Bryant Fund the most successful in its history.

More than 75 persons attended the mid-evening event in the Heritage Room of the Bryant Center. Guests included alumni, Trustees, giving-club chairs, Phonothon participants, faculty, and staff.

Tony Piotti, annual giving director, said the event served to acknowledge "the varying contributions of Bryant's many friends" and to highlight last year's \$1.15 million success. It also provided an opportunity "to generate momentum and support for this year's campaign," he said.

Speakers included professor Pat Keeley, Campus Campaign co-chair; Peter Sullivan '74, Archway Club chair; Clarence Jarvis '36, '85-86 national chair; Bob Harrill, vice-president for institutional advancement, and President O'Hara, who gave the keynote address.

Keeley touched on the spark given the campaign by Bryant's faculty and staff, who contributed more than \$12,000 while participating at a

60-percent level. Sullivan outlined the role of alumni contributors and the benefits accrued from their continued investment in the College.

Jarvis reminisced a bit about Bryant's past, particularly former president and chancellor E. Gardner Jacobs, and the vision he had for the College. That pride in Bryant by Jacobs is carried on by the College's supporters, he said. Harrill talked about how tough it is to raise money in today's marketplace. But the task is made so much easier, he said, by caring alumni and friends who really deserve the credit for giving Bryant its first \$1-million year.

The President applauded the job done by the volunteers, especially Jarvis, whom he described as the ideal example of the dedicated alumnus, and the development staff's efforts. He went on to discuss the additional challenges Bryant faces in the coming years, which will require even more significant support. The million-dollar success is just the beginning of an effort to keep Bryant in the forefront of business education, he said.

cation of the American Federation of Teachers, to the Bryant Center.

Pell opens the day-long celebration with a morning speech on the federal role in higher education's future. Fiske, known also for his controversial college guides, speaks at a luncheon on current challenges to higher education. Nielsen follows the writer to the podium in the afternoon to talk about the impact on faculty unions of the National Labor Relations Board in the 1980s.

The conference concludes with a late-afternoon

reception. A variety of guests from within Bryant and throughout New England education circles have been invited.

The celebration continues on Wednesday afternoon, April 8, with a performance in the Bryant Center Commons by a jazz quintet. It is open to the public.

Then on Friday, April 10, the Federation holds its annual scholarship-fund dinner-dance at 8 p.m. at the 1025 Club in Johnston. A swing band will perform. Cost is \$15 per person.

QUICKLY

...**President O'Hara** has been appointed by Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Fay to be vice-chairman of the Commission on the Future of the R.I. Judicial System. The 21-person panel will make recommendations for improvements, particularly as they increase the level of service the courts bring to citizens, and to assure that resources are allocated to the most appropriate and productive activities...

...Professor **M. E. Ellis** presented a paper at the February session of the Rhode Island Economic and Finance Forum working paper series at Rhode Island College. It was titled "Deregulation, Interest Rates and the Systematic Risk of Bank Stocks"...

...**Joanne Mongeon**, an adjunct English professor and president of Impact Unlimited: Communications Consulting, has written an essay for the humanities booklet of the Trinity Repertory Company...

...**Paula Iacono** '69 is working in the alumni office during the spring semester as coordinator of the leadership conference in April and the annual reunion weekend in June...

...Professor **Chantee Lewis** spoke at the March 9 session of Great Decisions '87, a series of the Council for International Visitors, and at the March 12 tax seminar of Coldwell Banker DeFelice realtors. His March 9 talk discussed "Foreign Investment in the United States (The Selling of America)"...

...Trustee **Norman Sarkisian** '53 is the recipient of the Armenian Students' Association's Aram Zakian Business Person Award for 1986. The award goes annually to a business person in the U.S. who is actively involved in the Armenian and American communities...

...A college-relations team from **Electronic Data Systems Corporation** spent three days at Bryant in early February, speaking with professors, attending classes, meeting with students, and making presentations on EDS. The visit was one of 22 the team is making this spring to colleges that EDS is very interested in recruiting students from nationwide...

CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Technology Tools for Trainers

Seminar
The CENTER
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 16 –
MARCH 22

Spring Break

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

**How to Plan Effective
Presentations**

Seminar
The CENTER
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

**How to Deliver Effective
Presentations**

2-Day Seminar
The CENTER
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Eucharist
CMD Conference Room 4
Noon & 9 p.m.

Protestant Services
Bryant Center Chapel
12:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 23 –
FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Eucharist
Bryant Center Chapel
Noon

MONDAY, MARCH 23

Computer-assisted Instruction
Instructional Development Center
Room 276
3:30 p.m.

Conducting Effective Training
2-Day Seminar
The CENTER
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Leadership Forum
Bernard Bass
“Transformational Leadership”
386 A&B
7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

NERComP conference
MRC lecture hall
9:15 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Eucharist
CMD Conference Room 4
Noon & 9 p.m.

Protestant Services
Bryant Center Chapel
12:30 p.m.

SPB Movie

"Back to School"
Auditorium
7 & 9:15 p.m.

SPORTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Men's Baseball

B.U.
3 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Men's Baseball

S.M.U.
3 p.m.

Women's Softball

Coast Guard
3:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Men's Baseball

Merrimack
Noon

Women's Softball

Merrimack
1 p.m.

By the way . . .

by Gloria Yahn
Assistant Editor

- Elaine St. Laurent, office of the executive vice-president, has been elected to serve on the secretarial/clerical evaluation committee. She will represent the President's division.
- Gerhard Ditz of the marketing department tells me his daughter, Nicole, a student at Rhode Island College, married Alfonso Borges, a part-time instructor at RIC. They tied the knot on December 28.
- Nancy Parchesky, admissions office, has returned to work after spending almost six months taking care of her baby son, Jeremy.
- Nancy Glanz, SBDC office, has left Bryant to accept a position at Van Lieu Capital Management, an investment firm. Her friends treated her to a special luncheon in the Heritage Room on March 4.
- Celia Podmaska, bursar's office, became a grandmother for the fourth time late last month. Jameson John, 8 lb. 15 oz., was born to Celia's daughter, Lorraine Collins.
- Just a note to my interested friends out there. My son, Neil, has won another gold medal in his second year of cross-country skiing for the Rhode Island Winter Special Olympics. I think he deserves an "atta boy!"



Junior Federation scholar

Professors Pat Keeley (left) and Joe Ilacqua present the second Bryant Faculty Federation scholarship to Elizabeth Buchanan, a junior computer information systems major from Port Jefferson, N.Y. The \$1,000 award was raised through the annual Federation-sponsored dinner-dance.

High-tech conference bringing "superstars"

Bryant hosts on March 27 a high-technology conference that features two "superstars" in the field of computer workstations.

Titled "Workstations and Computing Environments," the day-long conference is bringing to the campus William Joy, co-founder and vice-president for research and development of Sun Microsystems, and David Nelson, co-founder and chief technical officer of Apollo Computer. The conference also will include updates from the workstation leaders of the academic world: Brown, MIT and Carnegie-Mellon.

Joy and Nelson were the driving forces behind new companies to produce and market advanced workstations. They will address, respectively, "Software Standards and Hardware Advances: the Driving Forces for Open Systems," and "Workstation Evolution and Network Computing." Joy speaks in the morning; Nelson in the afternoon.

The conference is sponsored by NERComp (New England Regional Computing Program) and coordinated by Joe Guay, Bryant's director of academic computing. All sessions are in the MRC lecture hall. Call Guay for more information or a registration form. There is a fee.

Attention Bryant smokers

If you're interested in quitting smoking, the American Cancer Society is willing to help. It has agreed to present a four-hour "Quit Smoking Clinic" on campus spread over four weeks from either 12-1 or 1-2 p.m. A minimum enrollment of 10 smokers is needed. Call the Office of Human Resources for more information or if you are interested.